

**Fact Sheet
June 2004**

Juanita Blakely Jones Elementary School, San Bernardino, California 92410



DEPARTMENT OF TOXIC
SUBSTANCES CONTROL

Seeking Your Comments on the Plan to Clean up Lead and Pesticide Contaminated Soil at the Proposed School Site

DTSC is one of six
Boards and
Departments within
the California
Environmental
Protection Agency.
The Department's
mission is to restore,
protect and enhance
the environment,
to ensure public health,
enviromental
quality and
economic vitality,
by regulating
hazardous waste,
conducting and
overseeing
cleanups, and
developing
and promoting
pollution prevention.

State of California



**California
Environmental
Protection Agency**



INTRODUCTION

The San Bernardino City Unified School District (SBCUSD) conducted an environmental investigation at the site of the proposed Juanita Blakely Jones Elementary School site (SITE), located near F and 7th Streets in San Bernardino, California.

Elevated levels of lead and organochlorine pesticides were detected in the shallow soil. Based on those results, SBCUSD prepared a Draft Removal Action Workplan (RAW) proposing to remove approximately 7,000 cubic yards (approximately 500 truckloads) of soil from the site under the oversight of our state agency, the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). **You are invited to review and comment on this Draft RAW.**

THIS FACT SHEET SUMMARIZES:

- What was found
- That it is not a current risk to public
- How to get there and why clean up is needed
- Cleanup options
- How SBCUSD plans to clean it
- How you can tell us what you think
- Who to contact for more information
- Information about the **30-day Public Comment Period**

SBCUSD is responsible for the site cleanup. DTSC ensures that the cleanup work meets state and federal standards that protect the public's health and the environment.

Public Comment Period June 11, 2004 – July 10, 2004

The public comment period is to give you the opportunity to review and provide us with your comments and questions on the Draft RAW for the Proposed Juanita Blakely Jones Elementary School. We invite you to send your comments to:

Robbie Morris
DTSC Project Manager
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control
9174 Sky Park Ct, Suite 150
San Diego, CA 92123-4340
Phone: 858-637-5536
Fax: 858-637-5550
Email: rmorris@dtsc.ca.gov

DTSC may conduct a public meeting on the draft RAW during the public comment period if there is significant community interest. Please contact:

Ms. Maya Akula
DTSC Public Participation
Specialist at (818) 551-2917 or
Makula@dtsc.ca.gov

Under the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act, DTSC has prepared a draft Notice of Exemption (NOE) for this project stating that the proposed cleanup will not have a significant negative effect on human health and the environment.

WHAT WAS FOUND

The SBCUSD conducted environmental investigation to determine if there were chemicals (such as pesticides and metals) from past residential homes and practices at the property. The levels of lead and pesticides found are above those allowed by DTSC for school sites.

NOT A CURRENT HEALTH RISK

Currently, the lead and pesticides at the site do **not pose an immediate risk** to the public as the site has been fenced and access is restricted.

HOW THE CHEMICALS GOT THERE AND WHY A CLEANUP IS NEEDED

It is suspected that the pesticides came from the application of products used to kill insects (e.g. termites) around the homes and lead came from weathering and flaking of lead-based paint from past residential buildings.

However, to reduce and/or eliminate long term potential health risks to future school occupants, the lead and pesticide contaminated soil must be removed **PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION**.

CLEANUP OPTIONS

Any cleanup plan must protect public health and the environment, be feasible, have a reasonable cost and be shared with the community. Protection of human health and the environment is the most important factor. Of the several cleanup options

evaluated, the following options were further carefully reviewed:

Option 1 – No Action (we are required by law to include this option as a point of comparison).

Option 2 – On-site Containment (Capping)

Option 3 – Excavation and Off-site Disposal (Preferred Option)

Based on the goals of a cleanup plan, Option 3 is the preferred cleanup option because it is permanent, effective, feasible, protects human health and has a reasonable cost.

HOW SBCUSD PLANS TO CLEAN IT

The contaminated soil will be removed from the identified areas and transported in about 500 trucks to a state-approved disposal facility, then confirmatory soil testing will be performed and the excavated area will be filled with clean soil. The cleanup will require 5 to 8 weeks to complete (tentatively scheduled to begin in July 2004).

SAFETY AND DUST CONTROLS DURING CLEANUP

If the cleanup plan is approved as written, some noise from the earth-moving equipment can be expected during the removal. An effort will be made to keep the noise to a minimum. No traffic delays are expected while the trucks are driving to and from the proposed school site. The trucks will generally leave the site on G St., travel south to 4th St. and then take the I-215 Freeway and on to the disposal facility.

SBCUSD will take the following steps to ensure safety and minimize the impact of dust generated during the cleanup:

- The site will be fenced and secured.
- Caution tape will be placed around the active excavation and staging areas.

- All vehicles will maintain slow speeds while on the site.
- Work areas will be sprayed or misted with clean water to control dust.
- Water mist will be sprayed on soil loaded into the transport trucks.
- Soil that is stockpiled will be placed on plastic and covered with plastic sheeting to control dust, prevent wind and rain erosion.
- Trucks will be covered with a tarp before they leave the site to prevent soil from blowing out during transport.
- The exterior of the transport trucks will be brushed clean of soil prior to leaving the site.
- The air will be monitored on-site to ensure the amount of dust stays at a safe level.

YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE COMMENTS

You have the opportunity to review and comment on the Draft RAW during the Public Comment Period, which begins on **June 11, 2004 and ends on July 10, 2004**. Please send your questions and thoughts about the proposed cleanup option to: Ms. Robbie Morris, DTSC Project Manager, 9174 Sky Park Ct, Suite 150, San Diego, CA 92123-4340, Phone: 858-637-5536. Comments must be postmarked no later than **July 10, 2004**.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

All comments will be evaluated before we make a final decision. The draft RAW may be modified based on the comments we receive. We will respond in writing to all comments in a formal "Response to Comments" document that will be sent to everyone who has submitted a comment and provides an address.

WHERE TO FIND SITE DOCUMENTS (TECHNICAL REPORTS)

The proposed cleanup plan is described in detail in the Draft Removal Action Workplan for Juanita Blakely Jones Elementary School. This workplan and the other documents about the investigation are available for your review at the following locations:

San Bernardino City Unified School District

777 North F Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410
Contact: Ms. Melinda Pure
Phone: (909) 381-1238
Hours: Monday–Friday 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Feldheim Central Library

555 West 6th Street
San Bernardino, CA 92410
Phone: (909) 381-8221
Hours: M T W 10:00 am – 8:00 pm
Th F Sat 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Sun: Closed

Department of Toxic Substance Control

555 West 6th Street
Regional Records Office
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, CA 90630
Contact: Julie Johnson
Phone: (714) 484-5337
Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

WHO TO CALL FOR INFORMATION

If you have any questions about the **cleanup project**, please call the following persons at our agency: Ms. Maya Akula, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2917; or Ms. Robbie Morris, DTSC Project Manager, at (858) 637-5536. For media inquiries, please contact Ms. Jeanne Garcia, DTSC Public Information Officer, at (818) 551-2176. For more information about the DTSC, please visit our website at www.dtsc.ca.gov.

If you have any questions about the **school construction**, please call Mr. Michael

Perez, SBCUSD Director of Facilities and Operations, or Ms. Melinda Pure, SBCUSD Facilities Manager at (909) 381-1238.

NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS

TDD users can use the California Relay Service at (1-888-877-5378) to reach DTSC Public Participation Specialist, Ms. Maya Akula at (818) 551-2917.

JUANITA BLAKELY JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAMPUS MAP

